(e) New P.L.R. scheme is applicable only for Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards.

[Translation]

Thalassemia Patients

*520. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any special financial assistance to Thalassemia patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government provide financial assistance and incentives to those institutions, which give help to such patients; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing number of Thalassemia patients, and eradication of this disease in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Although no direct financial assistance is provided, exemption from Customs Duty has been extended on the import of Desferal injections and infusion pump. The marketing of an oral iron chelator Deferiprone for use under strict medical supervision has also been recently allowed which is less expensive and reported to have better level of patient's compliance.

(c) and (d) The mainstay of treatment of this genetic disorder is repeated blood transfusion, followed by iron chelation on continued basis. Blood Banks are being modernised with a view to improve availability of quality blood.

Curative treatment for Thalassemia is through Bone marrow transplantation. The Indian Council of Medical Research, supports an Advance Research Programme at Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, for curative treatment for Thalassemia.

The ultimate aim is to prevent birth of afflicted children, for which genetic counselling and pre-natal diagnosis during pregnancy is available at a few centres in the country. The I.C.M.R., has initiated a multicentric study for assessing the feasibility of introducing ante-natal diagnosis in the National Family Welfare Programme.

[English]

Admission in Nursing Homes

4638. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of Basic pay is written on the CGHS card alongwith photos of the family members of a retired Government servant;

(b) if so, whether it is in the knowledge of the Government that only the higher Basic pay contributors are given chances to get accommodation in Nursing Home as and when required at the time of admission, particularly in the RML Hospital;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the retired persons particularly whose basic pension is above Rs. 4,000/– is given admission in the Nursing Home; and

(d) if so, whether Government would like to give a serious thought and consider every case without considering basic pensions while giving admissions in the Nursing Homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per criteria laid down the serving Central Government employees become eligible for Nursing Home facility if their basic pay is Rs. 2501/– or above at the time of admission to the Dr. RML Hospital. In case of pensioners, if their basic pension is Rs. 2501/- or above they too are entitled to Nursing Home Facility. However, pensioners drawing basic pension less than Rs. 2501/–but were drawing basic pay of more than Rs. 2501/– at the time of retirement can also avail of the Nursing Home Facility provided they opt for CGHS Pension Card on the basis of the last pay drawn.

(d) In view of (b) & (c) above, there is no such proposal under consideration for the time being.

Women Pills Users Facing Tumour Risk

4639. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item that appeared in 'The Times of India' dated June 25, 1996 under caption "Women pill-users face tumour risk";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that while advertising for oral contraceptive for ladies it was very strongly and clearly recommended by doctors that use of such oral contraceptive pills does not have side-effect and these could be taken safely;

(c) the reasons why innocent people were made to believe for taking such prescriptions by the doctors;

(d) whether the Government propose to take steps to provide medical aid to the victims where needed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As regards side effect, health worker has to inform the clients of the benefits and risks so that beneficiaries can make any appropriate choice. In fact the pill has a number of benefits in addition to its contraceptive effect like reduction in the incidence of anaemia, regulation of menstrual cycle, protection against pelvic inflammatory disease, cancer of ovaries and benign breast diseases.

It is not a fact that oral contraceptive increase risk of cancer. However, a number of recent study have found only a weak association between long term use of oral contraceptive and breast cancer. It is un-clear whether this observed association is attributable to bias, the development of new cases of cancer or accelerated growth of existing cancer.

(d) and (e) In the event of an acceptor developing any complication due to use of oral contraceptive pills, medical aid is available in Govt. Hospital/Institutions.

[Translation]

Elected MP/MLA/MLC are Still in the Post

4640. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Professors/Principals of the Degree Colleges/Universities in Bihar have been elected as Member of Legislative Assemblies (MLA) or Members of Parliament (MP);

(b) if so, the details thereof, College-wise/University-wise;

(c) whether such M.Ps and M.L.As are getting their regular salaries from their respective Degree Colleges/ Universities or are on extraordinary leave;

(d) if so, the number of M.L.As/M.Ps getting their regular salary alongwith the number of those who are on extraordinary leave; and

(e) the rules of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recruitment in Defence Forces

4641. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recruitment made in the three wings of the Defence forces from Rajasthan in the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether the total number of such recruitment in Rajasthan is less as compared with some other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of recruitment centres in Rajasthan, their locations and the number of centres in which recruitment was done during the last three years;

(e) whether any preference is given in recruitment to the sons/dependents of the ex-servicemen;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding corruption at the recruitment centres or irregularity in recruitment; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (g) The details of recruitment made in the three wings of the Defence Forces from Rajasthan in the last three years, year-wise are as under:-

Year	*Army*	*Navy*	*Air Force*
1993-94	3233	104	176
1994-95	4742	126	155
1995-96	5881	134	163

2. Vacancies in the Army are allotted based on RMP (Recruitable Male Population) of each State/Union Territory. Vacancies allotted for fixed class like Sikh Regiment are filled exclusively from the concerned region, class etc. Recruitment in the Army from the state of Rajasthan has been good. However, recruitment in the Navy and the Air Force has been less as compared with some States whose population is lesser than that of Rajasthan. Selection in the Navy and the Air Force is based on eligibility of the candidates, who fulfill the selection criteria. It is also done on All India basis.

3. There are five Army recruitment centres in Rajasthan and these are at Ajmer, Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Kota and Jhodhpur. The Indian Navy has four recruitment centres located at Ajmer, Alwar, Jhunjhunu and Jhodhpur. There is only one recruitment centre of the Air Force located at Jhodhpur. Recruitment was done at all these centres during the last three years.

4. Certain vacancies in the Army are allotted for enrolment of wards of war widows, Servicemen and ex-Servicemen. Some relaxation is also given in the form of bonus marks in written examination, physical standards etc. Wards of war widows, Servicemen and ex-Servicemen need not send formal application for enrolment in the Army. They are permitted to report directly for screening to the concerned recruitment centre. In the Navy, weightage of 5% marks is given to the wards of ex-Servicemen. As regards the Air Force, no preference is